

## WASHINGTON LETTER.

(From our Regular Correspondent.)

WASHINGTON, May 2.

President Harrison's friends profess to believe that he will be nominated again with practically no opposition, but their acts are not altogether in keeping with their professions of belief, as the minister said of the brother with back-sliding proclivities. It is significant that just as the talk of nominating Mr. Blaine without his consent began again to assume gigantic proportions, ex-Postmaster-General Frank Hatton should have begun in the Washington Post an editorial crusade against Mr. Blaine for having agreed to the arbitration of the Behring Sea question. Mr. Hatton, while claiming to edit a strictly independent paper, has frequently been made the mouthpiece of the injudicious friends of President Harrison, who believe that abuse of Mr. Blaine helps Mr. Harrison. Without endorsing the claims of either gentleman or caring the value of a burnt match whether either of them shall be nominated by their party for President, it may be remarked that so far as the Behring Sea matter is concerned it is difficult for unprejudiced eyes to see the sense in blaming one and praising the other when they both occupied precisely the same position. Either they are both entitled to praise for agreeing to arbitration, or they are both deserving of censure for it. There can be no division, and for Mr. Hatton to attempt to saddle blame upon Mr. Harrison in this connection, is but to place on exhibition the prejudice that every one knows he has against Mr. Blaine.

While everybody concedes the ability of T. Jefferson Coolidge of Boston, who has been nominated to succeed Whitehall Reid as Minister to France, some of the Republican brethren are disposed to grumble at the appointment, because Mr. Coolidge has only been a Republican since Mr. Cleveland's famous tariff message was sent to Congress. Previous to that time he was a leading Democrat, as his son now is in Massachusetts.

Members of the House are thinking so much more about securing a re-nomination than about transacting the business for which they are paid that it is extremely difficult to get a quorum together on the floor of the House, and seemingly impossible to keep it together a week at a time. The Republicans, of course, throw all the blame on the Democrats, and as that party has a membership of sixty odd more than a quorum in the House, it will not be strange if the public agrees in holding it responsible for the present legislative situation, which will inevitably result in much hurried and consequently bad legislation at the far end of the session.

There is much common sense in the proposition of Representative Bailey of Texas, to "dock" the pay of members of Congress for the time they are absent, but there is not even the slightest probability that Congress will see it in that light. The majority of the present House are ready to cut down anything but their own perquisites, and in this respect they do not differ from the majority of any House which preceded it. Representative Cummings of New York, who is a Tammany Democrat, put a new phase on the cutting down of salaries and the consolidations in the Diplomatic and Consular Appropriation Bill, now under consideration by the House, when he said: "I want to rebuke this parsimony. It means really, virtually legislating in favor of the rich against the poor. For, by reducing the salaries of Ministers and Consuls, the offices are placed in the hands of plutocrats and taken from the educated, honest, laboring or professional men."

The Watchman, the national organ of the People's Party, issued its first number last week. It will be carefully read by the politicians of the old parties who are puzzling their heads no little in the endeavor to ascertain just what the plans of the third party are to be in the coming national campaign.

Among the callers on President Harrison last Saturday was Senator Palmer of Illinois, and he was subjected to much good-natured chaffing by several of his Senatorial colleagues who met him at the White House. They wanted to know if he had gone there for the purpose of making a critical examination of the residence portion of the building, with a view to having alterations made in anything that did not suit him before he moved in. He enjoyed the joking as much as any of them.

The House has been wasting so much time that the Senate has almost overtaken it in appropriation legislation, and if it does not do better the Senate will have to adjourn about three days in each week, unless it decides to take up some other important legislation, which is not at all probable. In fact two months is a very short time in which to dispose of all of the appropriation bills, and the present intention is to adjourn about July 1, but then you know, intentions seldom count.

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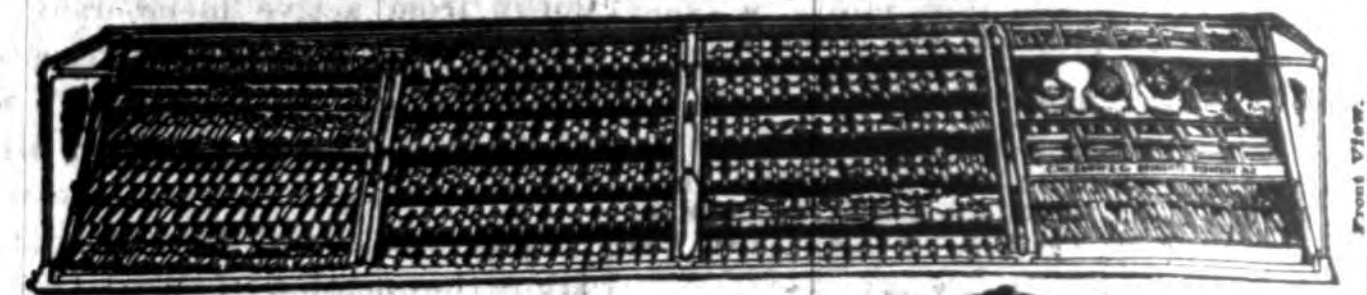
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